

[The President.]

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House, Demand XXII—Public Works Department—for a sum not exceeding Rs. 25.13 lakhs *minus* Rs. 8,000.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XXIII—Anchal Department.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3.69 lakhs under Demand XXIII—Anchal Department.

Motion 175.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Mr. President, the Anchal Department is purely a commercial department and has been regarded as a paying department. Till recently, when certain items have been debited to the Anchal Department, it has become a department with a deficit. I find that, in respect of stationery, Rs. 53,800 is charged against the Anchal Department. I find—

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, the motion has not been formally moved by the Member.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I beg to make the following motion:
175. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 37,320 for transit contract by Rs. 5,000.

I find, again, that Rs. 14,500 has been debited to the Anchal Department for printing work done, and another Rs. 20,000 for stamps, etc. I augur, from this conversion of a profit-giving department into a deficit department, that the prices of stamps and cards are likely to be raised in the near future, in order that the department may be enabled to pay its working cost. If that is the policy, then certainly I must submit to this House that a free hand must be given to this department, if it chooses to take it up, to run it purely as a commercial concern. If the department takes its paper from the Government stores, and has to pay its value at the market rates,—

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, I rise to a point of order. The member has tabled a motion only in respect of transit contract.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I am at the stage of retrenchment, and am referring to one item of retrenchment. If I should not refer to others, I would say nothing.

PRESIDENT: That is what you are suggesting?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I suggest that the department may be allowed to purchase its own paper, and do its own printing, so that it may be tried whether the department cannot be run at less cost, and whether it cannot balance its expenses with its income.

Secondly, whenever a department is run as a commercial concern, it must be allowed to pay its officers as well as staff at market rates—

PRESIDENT: You are discussing a question of general policy for which there is no warrant in the motion you have tabled. You cannot, therefore, do it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Then I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The question is that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 3.69 lakhs under Demand XXIII—Anchal Department.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XXIV—Miscellaneous.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for the vote of the House in respect of a grant not exceeding 38 lakh under XXIV—Miscellaneous.

Motion 176.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I beg to move the following motion:

176. To omit the allotment of Rs. 28,700 for grants to Municipalities.

My object in bringing forward this motion is to ascertain what exactly is the principle or policy on which grants to the several municipalities are made. I find that this year some municipalities are given nothing, while others are treated to various sums. I also find that the sums now allotted are different from those given last year. In any case, the sums proposed are less than those given last year.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that you can discuss the general policy when you move for the deletion of the whole item, so far as municipal grants are concerned. You must give reasons for proposing to omit the whole item.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: So far as I know, there is no rule to that effect.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Supposing the Government accept this motion, the result will be that the whole amount will be cut down. I do not know whether the other municipalities will agree to it. That is the reason why this motion should not be utilised for a general discussion of municipal policy.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I have brought forward this motion simply to discuss the general policy.

PRESIDENT: You should have proposed a small reduction and then discussed the policy in this case.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: If I am permitted, I shall move for a reduction of Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: At this stage, I cannot allow it.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: There is no rule to the effect that, unless I move for a reduction of the grant, I cannot discuss questions of policy.

PRESIDENT: The item proposed to be omitted is the entire grant to municipalities, and in regard to it, that is my ruling.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Then I cannot but submit to it.

PRESIDENT: Then I suppose you withdraw the motion.